

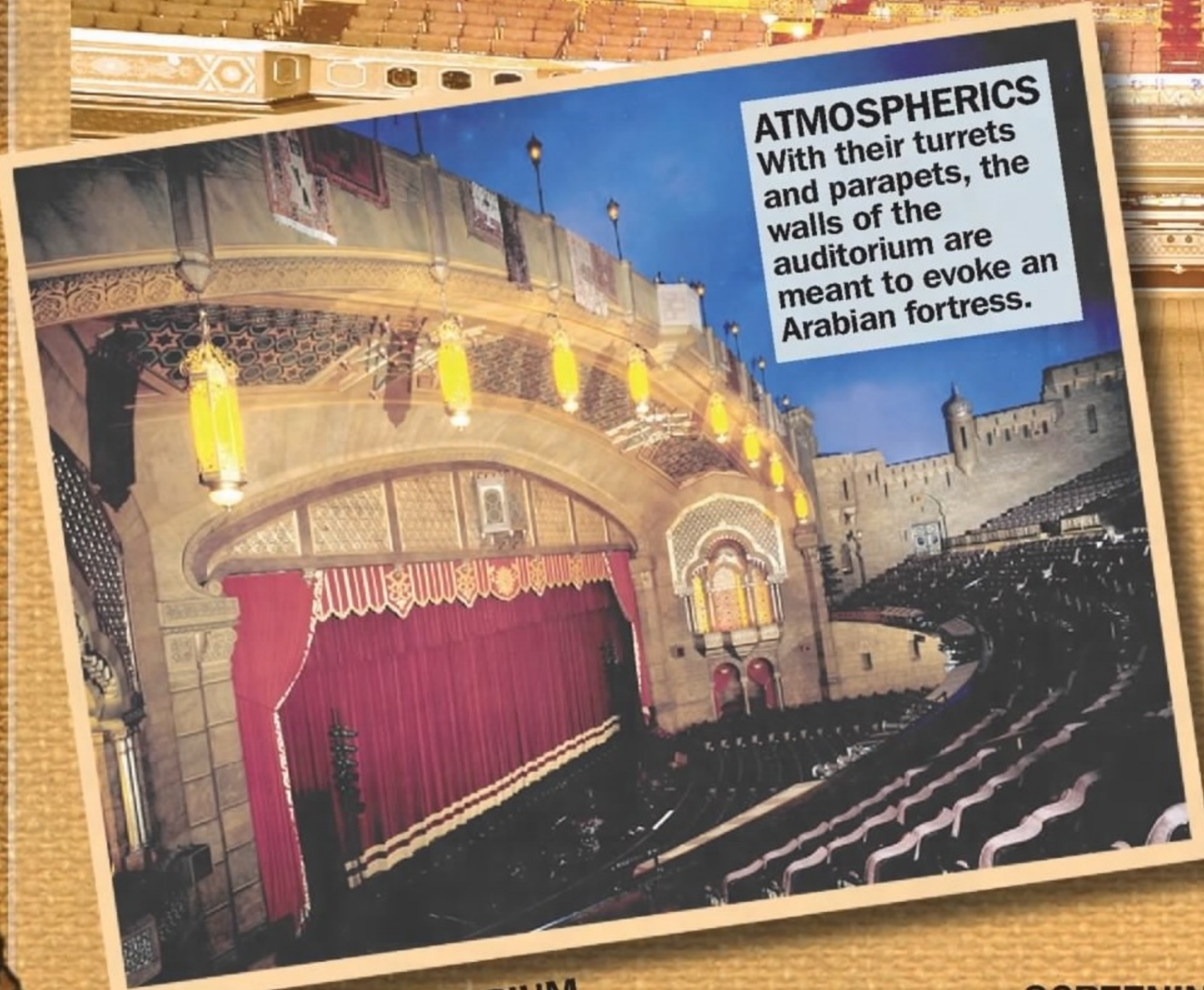
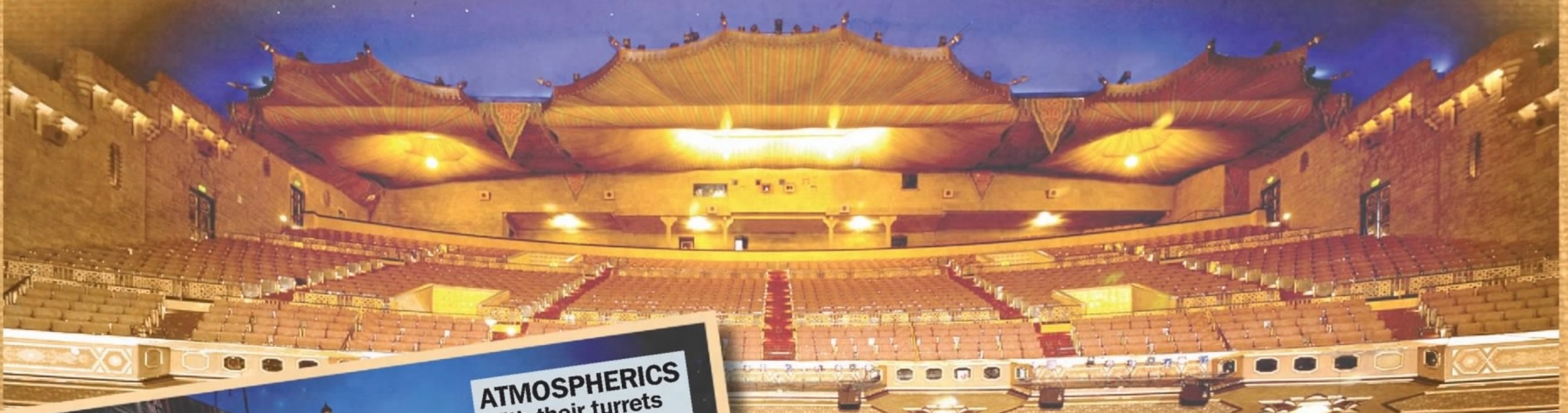


75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOX THEATRE

INSIDE THE PALACE

The theater is only part of the show at the Fox. At 250,000 square feet, the building contains 17 dressing rooms, two banquet halls, a restaurant, a nightclub, an apartment, a broadcast studio, laundry facilities, a catering kitchen, an old infirmary and the offices of Atlanta Landmarks – not to mention a 4,518-seat auditorium.

Graphic by MICHAEL DABROWA / Staff Text by JIM AUCHMUTEY / Staff



ATMOSPHERICS
With their turrets and parapets, the walls of the auditorium are meant to evoke an Arabian fortress.

THAT SKY

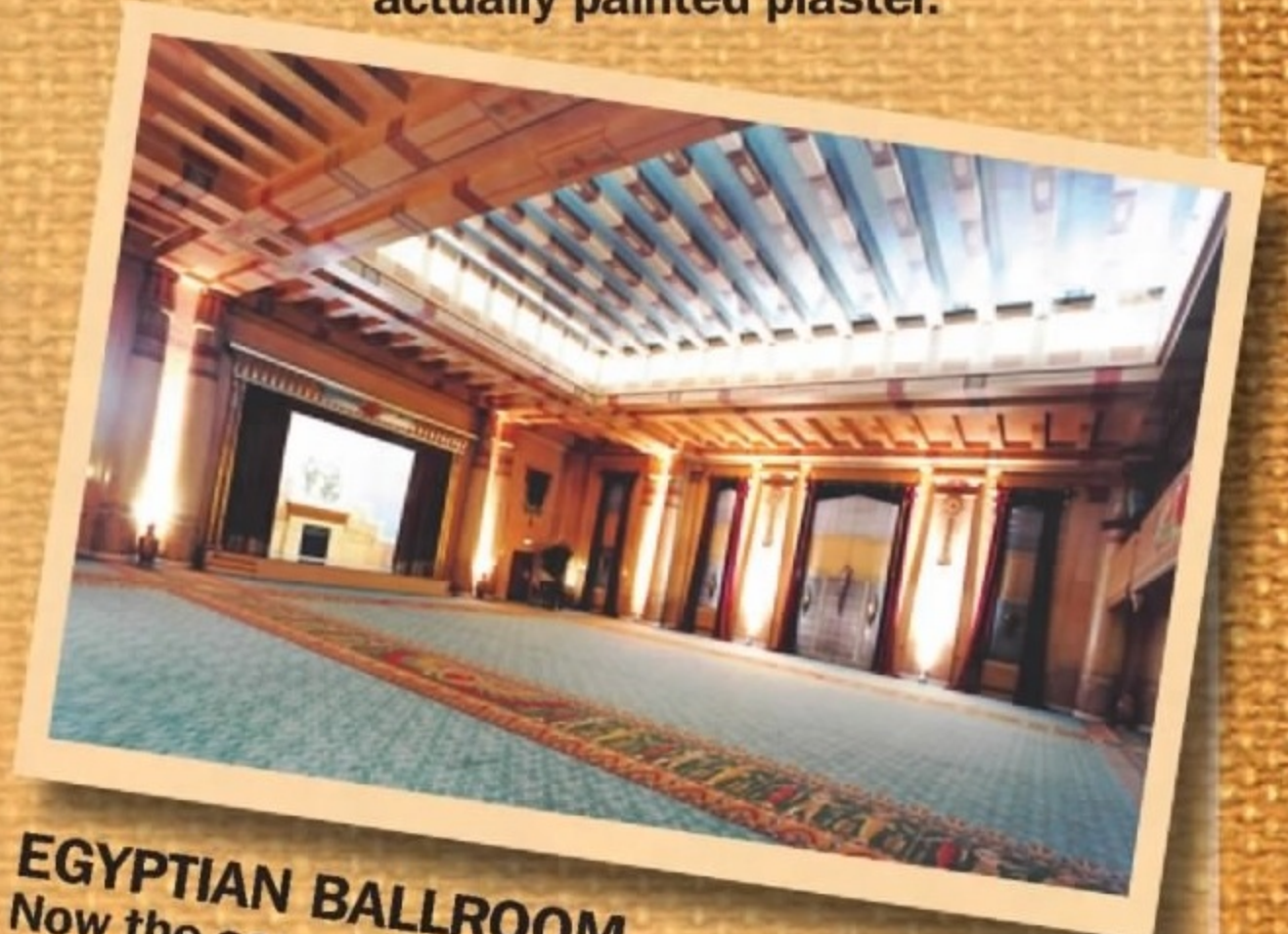
The auditorium ceiling depicts an Arabian night sky, with ultramarine blue paint, projected clouds and 96 starlights, some of which twinkle.

CANOPY

The striped awning over the balconies, which looks like the fabric of a Bedouin tent, is actually painted plaster.

ORCHESTRA PIT

It rises to stage level on screw-jack elevators, with separate lifts for piano and organ platforms.



STAGE AND AUDITORIUM

SCREENING ROOM

The city censor once reviewed films in this basement chamber, now used for rehearsal and catering.

EGYPTIAN BALLROOM
Now the scene of weddings and receptions, the Fox's largest banquet hall was once a big band showcase.

MARQUEE

Red during the daytime, the sign blazes with 13,824 gold and green lights by night.

UNDER THE MINARET

The southwestern corner of the building rises six floors and houses a warren of dressing rooms. Taped arrows on the floor point the way to the stage.

SIDE ENTRANCE

Until the early '60s, black moviegoers had to enter on Ponce de Leon and climb a long series of stairs to a segregated gallery.

ARCADE

Movie mogul William Fox insisted on a dramatic entrance that would sweep people off Peachtree like a flying carpet.

AIR WASH

The Fox had air conditioning a year before the White House. The 1929 "air-wash" recirculates through mushroom-shaped vents in the theater floor.

WALL OF FAME

The main hallway in the administrative offices is lined with signed photos of stars who have played the Fox, from Mickey Rooney to Johnny Cash.

PHANTOM'S LAIR

Once Shriner offices, the space under the onion dome is an apartment for Joe Patten, the theater's retired technical director, known widely as "the phantom of the Fox."

GHOSTS?

Fox employees tell of several, including a deceased stagehand and a long-dead maintenance man who curses at people in the furnace room. But the strangest tale concerns Bette Midler, who dashed into a backstage hallway screaming, "There's a dead man in my dressing room." Promoter Alex Cooley says he still has scars from where her long nails dug into his hands. It turned out that Midler sensed the spirit of someone who had died years before. She insisted on another dressing room, Cooley says. "She wasn't kidding. She was petrified."

"MIGHTY MO"

The Moller pipe organ is the second largest theater organ in the world and has 3,622 pipes ranging from 5 inches to 32 feet tall.

KING TUT

The ornate chairs in the mezzanine women's room were based on throne chairs found in King Tutankhamen's tomb.